

leaving for another week without resolving this injustice. And, Mr. Speaker, it is an outrage that President Bush, who last month advised House Republicans to pass this child tax credit legislation and send it to him so he can sign it, now sits silently as congressional Republicans do nothing. I have not heard anything from the President. His silence is an indication of his true intention. A very good indication, I think, that he is not truly looking to pass this legislation either.

And, finally, Mr. Speaker, I think it is outrageous not one Republican on the other side comes down here and talks about this other than when the Democrats bring it up, and they come down to oppose our motion to instruct. I do not know how many times I am going to have to join my Democratic colleagues here on the floor to point out the unfair treatment these hard-working American families received with the passage of the Republican tax bill.

All we are asking for, Mr. Speaker, is fairness. How can Republicans say it is fair to give a millionaire a tax break of more than \$90,000, or a Congressman like myself a tax break, while giving nothing to millions of working families? I do not think we should leave this city until this injustice is corrected, and we will certainly be back again to make the point.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). All time has expired.

Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. BLACKBURN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN CHINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, what is America if not a Nation that stands up for basic decency and human rights? What is America if it is not a people that speaks out for those who cannot speak out for themselves? And what will America become if we fail to speak out against dictators and despots who oppress and brutalize their own people?

China has for too long been at liberty to detain and torture and intimidate and oppress good men and women for their religious beliefs. As the world's greatest democracy and the symbol of hope for millions, America has a duty and an obligation to speak out for the oppressed people of the world. We fail in our duty if we do nothing.

It was the British philosopher and statesman Edmund Burke who said that Representatives owe you not just their industry but also their judgment. As Representatives and beholders of American ideals, we should speak out on the issue of the persecution of those of faith in China.

The litany of abuses committed by the Government of China toward its own people is long and senseless. I recently held a meeting with a number of groups who have spent years in documenting the numerous abuses committed by the Chinese Government upon the Chinese people. In the coming days, I will be highlighting the plight of different groups of long-suffering Chinese people so that colleagues can better understand the depth of this problem in China. The material I will be submitting today was prepared by the International Religious Freedom Commission, and I hope Members will read it.

As I close, 10 Catholic bishops are in China today under house arrest, and this government, our government, our Congress and the administration, does not act. The Protestant Church is being abused and beaten in China and we have refused to speak out. The Chinese have plundered Tibet, and yet the West is quiet. Muslims are being persecuted in the northwest portion of China, and yet the West speaks out not at all. The Falun Gong are being persecuted almost on a daily basis.

I think this is an opportunity to hear, in their own words, what all of these groups have to tell us in the Congress and us in the United States and us in the West about what is taking place, so that we know we should speak out on their behalf, particularly next year when the Geneva resolution with regard to condemning China on human rights comes up.

Depending on the religious organization in question, the Chinese government provided various justifications to defend its policy of repression. Its action to restrict religious belief and practice, however, go far beyond what is necessary to protect legitimate state interests.

Since 2001, the Communist government has engaged in a persistent campaign of banning some religious groups while insisting on registration for others. Many groups, particularly

Christian house churches, have refused, understandably fearful that providing membership rosters would lead to regular surveillance by party and government agencies.

The government's policy of designating religious or spiritual organizations as "cults" has led to tragic outcomes for millions of religious believers. All too often victims are sentenced to "re-education through labor camps," administered by the notorious Ministry of Public Security, which appears to perpetrate human rights abuses with absolute impunity. Persons adhering to "unacceptable" faiths have been given prison sentences of up to three years without a right to a hearing, without counsel and without judicial determination of their cases.

There are at least 30 million Protestant Christians in China. Mostly, believers belong to independent house churches. Purely on account of their faith, properties belonging to or used by such groups have been confiscated, closed, or destroyed and members have been detained, tortured, and subjected to other forms of government harassment.

In June 2003, 12 members of a house church in Guna Village in Yunnan province were arrested after they sought registration with the local government. On June 6, in response to the government's "invitation" to complete the registration process, the 12 church leaders were arrested for engaging in "feudalistic superstition." Eight of the 12 were immediately sentenced to three years in "re-education through labor" camps, while the other four were indicted and are being held for trial.

In late August 2003, local officials arrested 170 house church Christians in Nanyang county, Henan province after local police reportedly raided the meeting place where the worship service was being conducted. The report indicates that the 14 leaders of the group are currently being held in detention, possibly facing serious charges, while the other members were released after having been fined, fingerprinted, and warned against continuing their activities.

The Chinese Communist state has, since the 1950s, banned the Roman Catholic Church, replacing it with the state-approved Catholic Patriotic Association. Through this state organization, the Communist government has claimed the exclusive right to appoint Chinese bishops. Most Chinese clerics, however, have refused to accept the legitimacy of government appointees. As a result, many Roman Catholic bishops and priests have been harassed, detained, or imprisoned.

According to the Cardinal Kung Foundation, a number of Catholic bishops and priests who refuse to submit to government tutelage remain in prison or in detention and the status of other priests and lay persons remains unknown. As of August 2003, at least 10 Catholic bishops, including Bishop Su Zhimin, whose whereabouts are unknown, are imprisoned, in detention, under house arrests, or under surveillance.

In Tibet, Buddhist monks and nuns serve lengthy sentences for voicing their allegiance to the Dalai Lama. In point of fact, the great majority of Tibetan political prisoners are monks and nuns.

The longest-serving Tibetan political prisoner, Tagna Jigme Zangpo, was granted a medical parole to come to the United States in summer 2002 when he was in the middle of

a 28-year sentence before his "early" release. Ngawang Sandrol, a member of the famous Tibetan "Singing Nuns" who was released last year, had served over 10 years in the infamous Drapchi Prison before her release. According to the Tibet Information Network, the State Department, and the testimony of former Tibetan nuns like Ngawang Sandrol, many of these prisoners have been severely beaten and subjected to other extreme forms of punishment. Some have died in prison.

The Chinese government has denied repeated requests, including from the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, for access to the 12-year-old boy whom the Dalai Lama recognizes as the 11th Panchen Lama. Government officials have stated that he is being "held for his own safety," while at the same time insisting that another boy is the true Panchen Lama.

The Chinese government's official ban on the Falun Gong movement, in 1999, has meant heightened government repression for all religious organizations designated by the government as "cults." According to Falun Gong practitioners, as many as 100,000 of their members have been sent to labor camps without trial. They claim that as many as 700 may have died as a result of police brutality either while in prison or after their release.

In largely Muslim Xinjiang, religious freedom is severely curtailed by the government, which indiscriminately links Muslim religious expression with "separatist" or "terrorist" acts. The indiscriminate repression of the Uighur people is best exemplified by the arrest and imprisonment of Rebiya Kadeer, a prominent Uighur businesswoman and activist, who was arrested in 1999 after she met with a visiting U.S. congressional delegation. Close supervision of all mosques in the region by local Communist Party officials is now commonplace.

China repeatedly engages in severe—systematic, egregious—violations of religious freedom. If our ideals and what America stands for—both at home and abroad—are to mean anything, then we must not shrink from this issue. We must not allow human considerations to come secondary to the pursuit of trade.

We must dare to speak out for those who have no voice.

THE SYSTEMATIC CORRUPTION OF THE ALIYEV DYNASTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor this afternoon to address what I consider one of the largest potential factors for destabilization in the entire Caucas' region: The systematic corruption of the Aliyev Dynasty currently ruling Azerbaijan.

I have highlighted the problems with President Heydar Aliyev for years now, but his health has deteriorated recently, and that has put the future of Azerbaijan and the entire Caucas' region in doubt.

In July of this year, President Aliyev suffered what has been described by the Cleveland Medical Center, where he currently resides, as congestive heart

failure. Last month, his son Ilham was appointed as Prime Minister. This would seem only appropriate at first, unless you consider that a recent referendum forced through the electorate changed the line of succession from Speaker of the Parliament to Prime Minister. This was widely criticized at the time by domestic Azerbaijani opposition groups and the international community as a clear way for President Aliyev to set up a dynastic regime. Unfortunately, as President Aliyev has become incapacitated during his treatment, the predictions have come true. His son Ilham is now in direct line to take over the Presidency from his father.

The partnership, Mr. Speaker, of the father and the son is not only limited to the fact that Azerbaijan will be the first monarchy established in the former Soviet Union. A Financial Times article on September 13, 2003, clearly shows that power is not the only object of the Aliyevs' desire. Both were implicated in a court case that was unsealed in New York this week. The actual case had been filed against a Swiss banker by the name of Hans Bodmer. In the indictment, he allegedly conspired to facilitate the participation of foreign citizens in Azerbaijan's privatization process of the state-owned oil company, often referred to by its name, SOCAR, through improper payments made to Azerbaijani officials.

This would most likely not have come to light were it not for the fact that Heydar and Ilham Aliyev had never intended to privatize the oil company in the first place. Instead, they stole over \$100 million in the form of vouchers that were designed to give the purchaser disproportionate influence over the privatization process. All of this was alleged to have happened while Ilham Aliyev was the head of SOCAR, a position his father bestowed on him to apparently prepare him for his job as heir apparent of the country of Azerbaijan.

Mr. Speaker, this is a clear example of this administration's misguided policies when it comes to countries that are oil rich. The day that Ilham ascended to his post and forced the former Prime Minister from office, President Bush sent a letter of congratulations to him. This is clearly not in the interest of democracy that the President of the United States has touted lately in regards to the Middle East. How can this administration have separate distinctions about what is democracy and what is not?

It seems increasingly clear what the answer is. Those countries that have significant resources that are sent to western markets are allowed to be less Democratic than those that do not.

□ 1445

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am also very concerned about what the Aliyev regime plans to do about the resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

Heydar Aliyev was tantalizingly close to reaching a settlement with Armenian President Robert Kocharian in Key West in 2001, but those negotiations soon fell apart when Aliyev returned home. Since then, Aliyev and Kocharian have met many times, but resulted in no progress.

The Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe's Minsk Group, which is charged with moving the two parties towards peaceful settlement, has been increasingly frustrated with the process. Ilham has recently taken a much harder stance on the Karabakh issue than did his father, and this is of great concern to me.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the Aliyev family is on their way to establishing the first dynastic regime in the former Soviet Union. Not only is this a concern for the entire Caucas' region but also other leaders in the former Soviet Union that must be watching the United States' reaction to this. The message that is sent is not positive. How can we be supportive of this?

Families in the Middle East that have controlled vast oil revenues have scarred the last century with wars and oppressive regimes. Members of the Bush administration know this better than anyone. The current Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld, visited Iraq with a delegation in 1988. They met with Saddam Hussein and decided that the stability of his regime and oil revenue was more important than his lust for power, whatever the cost. We are now paying for that tragic mistake with the lives of our Nation's sons and daughters.

It is time for the administration to change its tune on the corrupt and oppressive Aliyev regime. Though stability may be the temporary result of the President's support, the end result could destabilize the entire region.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2658) "An Act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes."

LACK OF DIVERSITY IN COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY FACULTIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on two very different and unrelated topics, Mr. Speaker, but both are certainly of national importance.

First, almost every college and university in this country receives very